

Message Text

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17

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAM-01

SAJ-01 ACDA-07 DLOS-06 SAL-01 EB-07 IO-13 MC-02

TRSE-00 AID-05 /100 W

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R 122054Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0820

INFO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

AMEMBASSY LIMA

USCINCSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 7846

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PBOR, PE, BL, CI

SUBJ: PERUVIAN DIPLOMAT ON PURCHASE OF SOVIET AIRCRAFT
AND BOLIVIAN CORRIDOR

REF: A) SANTIAGO 7649 (NOTAL) B) LIMA 7277 (NOTAL)

1. GOP PURCHASE OF SOVIET AIRCRAFT: THE PERUVIAN DCM AUGUST 11 RAISED WITH AN EMBOFF THE QUESTION OF A PERUVIAN PURCHASE OF 36 SOVIET AIRCRAFT (REF B). HE NOTED THAT THE NEWS WAS BROKEN FIRST BY AP AND ASKED WHETHER THE USG HAD INSTIGATED THE AP MAN IN BUENOS AIRES (RECENTLY TRANSFERRED FRO SANTIAGO) TO BREAK THE STORY, WITH THE IDEA OF HEADING OFF THE PERUVIAN BUY. EMBOFF REPLIED THAT THE AP REPORTER WAS VERY WELL INFORMED, BUT DENIED FLATLY THAT THE REPORTER HAD BEEN INCITED BY THE USG TO PUBLISH. AT THE SAME TIME, EMBOFF SAID THAT FOR VARIOUS REASONS HE THOUGHT THE PERUVIAN BUY MISTAKEN (DESTABILIZING INFLUENCE VIS-A-VIS CHILE AND PERU'S OTHER NEIGHBORS, A DRAIN ON SCANTY PERUVIAN RESOURCES, AND POSSIBLE EXPLOITATION BY THE USSR AND CUBA). THE PERUVIAN
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SAID HE DID NOT KNOW WHETHER THE CONTRACT HAD BEEN SIGNED.

HE EXPLAINED DEFENSIVELY THAT HE WAS WELL AWARE OF THE NEGATIVE ASPECTS OF THE BUY, BUT THE PERUVIAN MILITARY APPEARED TO BE DETERMINED TO CONCLUDE THE PURCHASE.

2. BOLIVIAN CORRIDOR TO THE SEA: EMBOFF FOLLOWED UP HIS CONVERSATION OF THE WEEK BEFORE (REF A) ON THE PERUVIAN AMBASSADOR'S AUGUST 3 STATEMENT ABOUT A CORRIDOR NOT PER SE GUARANTEEING PERMANENT PEACE IN THE AREA. THE PERUVIAN SAID SEVERAL PROBLEMS REMAIN TO BE RESOLVED, OTHER THAN THE MAINTENANCE OF PERUVIAN RIGHTS IN AND ACROSS A CORRIDOR. BOLIVIA'S ACQUISITION OF AN EIGHT-KILOMETER COAST AND 200-MILE SEA WOULD AFFECT PERUVIAN INTERESTS. BOLIVIAN FISHING VESSELS WOULD NOT LOOK SOUTH OF THEIR ZONE TO CHILEAN WATERS, SINCE NO SIGNIFICANT FISHING IS DONE THERE. THEY WOULD INSTEAD LOOK NORTH TO PERUVIAN WATERS, WHICH WOULD FURTHER COMPLICATE THE PROBLEM OF FOREIGN FISHING FOR PERU. MOREOVER, HOW COULD PERU BE SURE THAT BOLIVIA WOULD NOT ASK IT TO CEDE A SIMILAR AMOUNT OF ITS TERRITORY AT THE CHILEAN BORDER?
POPPER

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NNN

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